tyres differ from company to company. Different tyre companies have increased the prices of various types of tyres manufactured by them at different times and also allowed substantial discounts on prices during the period which have not been fully reflected in the market prices.

Tyres are not subject to any price or distribution control. However, a close watch is being maintained by the Government over prices of tyres as well as their raw materials.

Lohia scooter

647. DR. H. P. SHARMA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the prices of Lohia scooters have been increased disproportionately beyond the market price estimated originally;

(b) if so, what was the original price per scooter and what is its present market price;

(c) to what specific factors such abnormal rise in prices is attributable; and

(d) whether any steps are contemplated to bring this high fuel efficiency scooter within the reach of the common man?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): (a) to (c) The ex-factory price of Lohia Scooter excluding excise duty increased from Rs. 9,600 to its present level of Rs. 11,355 on 9-9-84. According to the information furnished by the company, the increase in prices has taken place on account of the following factors:

(i) Escalation in the cost of imported components used in the scooter, on account of fluctuation in currency rates, and

(ii) Increase in the prices of inputs like steel, aluminium, non-ferrous metals, tyres, etc.

(d) Government have licensed sufficient capacity and built up in production capability of various makes of two-wheelers generating a situation in the market where two-wheelers are likely to be easily available at competitive prices.

Liberalisation of industry

648. SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have recently taken some measures for the liberalisation of industry; and

(b) whether some quarters have expressed doubts that this may indirectly affect the location policy and lead to concentration of industry in easily accessible areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): (a) and (b) Government have recently announced certain liberalisations which include broadbanding in certain industries within the same capacity raising the Limit of small scale to Rs. 35 lakhs,upward revision of the thrashhold limit for MRTP companies from Rs. 20 crores to Rs. 100 crores and delicensing of certain selected industries. This policy is not likely to affect the locational policy. Further in regard to the scheme of de-licensing it has been specifically provided that the industrial undertaking should not be located within the standard urban area limits of a city having a population of more than 10 lakhs or within the municipal limit of a city having a population of more than 5 lakhs.

Elections in Punjab and Assam

649. SHRI VITHALBHAI MOTIRAM PATEL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to hold elections in the States of Pun-

jab and Assam in near future; and

(b) if so, by when the Elections are likely to be held in both the States?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI ASOKE KUMAR SEN): (a) and (b) The Election Commission has informed that the question of holding of elections in Assam can be considered by it only after completion of the process of intensive revision of electoral rolls in the State which is presently in progress.

As regards Punjab, Government have taken a number of steps to normalist the situation culminating in the siming of the Memorandum of Settlement with the Akali Dal on the 24th July, 1985. As for holding of election, the Election Commission would have to take a view and would do so after it is assessed that the law and order situation is conducive to the holding of peaceful and orderly elections to both to the Assembly and the Lok Sabha.

Study to know sickness in Small Sector of industries

650. PROF. B. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have undertaken a study to know the causes of sickness in small sector of industries;

(b) if so, what are its findings; and

(c) how Government propose to remove the hurdles in the way of the development of small scale industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The report is under finalisation.

Reopening of Rohtas Industries Ltd.

651. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the result of the exercise so far made by Government to reopen the Rohtas Industries Limited, Dalmianagar (Bihar) which has been lying completely closed since September last; and

(b) the action, if any, proposed to be taken against the Management which sold the only profitable unit at Jaipur, when the Ministry was preparing the rehabilitation scheme for that group and if not, why?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARIF. MOHD. KHAN): (a) As a result of the exercise so far made by the Central Government to reopen the Rohtas Industries Ltd. Dalmiangar (Bihar), the Central Government has come to the conclusion that it was not possible to nationalise the undertaking. However, the Bihar Government was informed that the Central Government would extend all possible assistance to the State Government in case they decide to nationalise the undertakings of the company.

(b) Industrial Finance Corporation of India and other Institutions have recalled loans granted to the company and invoked personal guarantee given by the promoters against these loans. The State Bank of India has also filed a suit in Calcutta High Court against the company for recovery of its dues and on the Bank's application the Court has appointed a receiver to take possession of the assets of the Company charged to the Bank.